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INVESTIGATING HEAT-AND ELECTRO-CONDUCTION OF TUNGSTEN AND  
GRAPHITE AT HIGH TEMPERATURES

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English Pages: 7

SOURCE: Fizika Metallov i Metallovedeniye, Vol. 2, Nr. 1,  
January 1961, pp. 29-33

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Date 29 June 19 61

Investigating Heat and Electro-Conduction of Tungsten and Graphite  
at High Temperatures

( ISSLEDOVANIYE TEFLO-i ELEKTROPROVODNOSTI VOL'FRAMA i GRAFITA PRI  
VYSOKIKH TEMPERATURAKH)

by

V.S.Gumenyuk and V.V.Lebedev

Article, pp.29-33, from periodical Fizika Metallov i Metallovedeniye (Physics  
of Metals and Metallography, vol.11, No 1. Jan.1961

In this report is described the installation (experimental) built for  
the purpose of determining the coefficient of heat conduction, electro conduc-  
tion and their ratios for metals and alloys in the field of high temperatures  
(900 - 2200°C). Data are presented on the temperature dependence of heat conduc-  
tion and specific electric resistance of tungsten and graphite, and given are  
also the values of the Wiedeman-Frantz ratio in a wide range of temperatures.  
Empirical formulas are presented to calculate the heat conduction of tungsten  
and graphite in relation to temperature. A comparison was made with the avail-  
able literature data.

Data on heat conduction and electro conduction of metals and alloys have  
greater applied and theoretical value. They appear to be fundamental for sol-  
ving numerous problems pertaining to the physics of metals. Of considerable in-  
terest are the investigations of metals in the field of high temperatures. But  
up until now there are only few counted reports on the heat conduction of high  
melting metals. The values of the thermal constants at high temperatures, ob-  
tained by various authors, show considerable discrepancies, and in many instan-  
ces they plainly contradict each other.

Table 1 contains available literature values for heat conduction of tung-  
sten. According to data by Worthing, Swicker and Forsythe 1 the coefficient of

of heat conduction  $W$  in the range of 1000 - 2200°C rises slowly with temperature. A much recent investigation, carried out by Osborn [2] shows a different dependence of heat conduction upon temperature. In many other literature sources [3,4] are given values, which differ by a full magnitude from the data of above mentioned authors.

Table 1.

Literature source	Heat conduction of Tungsten (cal/cm.degr.sec) at temperatures (°C)						
	1000	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200
Worting	0.220	0.223	0.255	0.279	0.303	0.327	0.349
Swicker	-	-	-	0.298	0.312	0.324	0.331
Worting-Forsythe	-	0.236	0.247	0.259	0.268	0.278	0.288
Osborn	0.273	0.266	0.258	0.251	-	-	-
Technology of higher temperatures	3.79	-	-	-	-	4.90	-

The purpose of this investigation is to study the temperature dependence of the coefficient of heat conduction and specific electric resistance of tungsten and graphite in a temperature range of 900-2200°C.

#### Investigation Method

To determine heat conduction coefficient was employed a method, described by us previously [5]. If a short and long rod of one and the same diameter and chemical composition ~~is~~ heated with electric current in vacuo to an identical temperature then for heating the short rod (on account of additional heat loss at the tips) requires higher amperage. On the basis of this it is possible to compute the heat conduction of the material:

$$\lambda = \frac{\rho x^2 (I^2 - I_1^2)}{2S^2 \Delta T}, \quad (a)$$

where  $\lambda$  - coefficient of heat conduction;  $\rho$  - specific electric resistance;  $S$  - transverse cross sectional area of samples;  $T$  - temperature differential along the length  $x$ ,  $I$ -amperage necessary for heating the short rod, and  $I_1$  -

for heating the long sample.

In this way to determine  $\lambda$  it is necessary on the lengthy sample to measure  $\rho$  and  $I_1$ , and on the short one -  $I$  and  $\Delta T$  as a function of  $x$ .



Figure 1.

For measuring these values was constructed a special installation. Species of the investigated material were fastened in water cooled clamps, one of which could shift around freely under the effect of thermal expansion of the investigated bar. Because of this arrangement deformation of the sample in the process of experimentation was practically eliminated. The spacing between the clamps could vary in wide intervals (from 0 to 150 mm). To the sample were applied two molybdenum or tungsten probes which allowed to measure voltage drop at definite distance. This entire system in vertical arrangement was situated in a vacuum chamber the working vacuum in which was no lower than  $1 \cdot 10^{-5}$  mm Hg.

To determine voltage and amperage drop the P-56 type AC potentiometer was used. The temperature was measured with the OPPIR-09 optical pyrometer which was rigidly fixed to the trolley of KM-6 cathetometer (fig.1). This enabled to use

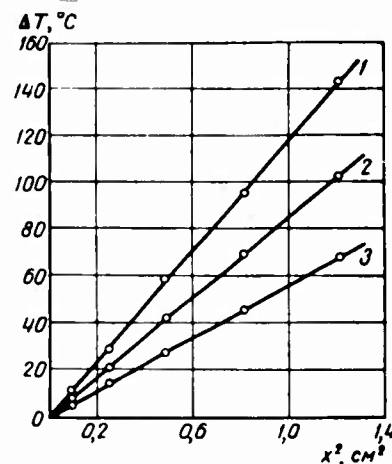


Fig.2. Temperature distribution near the center of the short tungsten sample; 1-temperature at center 1600 ; 2- 1400 ; 3-1600 C.

the cathetometer scale during the measurement of temperature distribution along the sample and during the determination of distance between probes as well.

To increase the temperature measuring accuracy the pyrometer was reconstructed somewhat. The voltage drop on the pyrometer tube was measured by the compensation method with the aid of a potentiometer. In addition a thorough calibration was made over the entire range of temperatures up to the point of absolutely black body, the temperature of which was measured up to 1500 with a platinum-rhodium-platinum thermo couple, and at much higher temperatures with the TSNIICHM-1 thermo couple.

Voltage stabilization was realized by means of a specially developed stabilizer on the basis of AOSK-10/05 auto-transformer.

On the short sample near the center the temperature distribution is subject to parabolic law 6. In our own case 5

$$\Delta T = \frac{1}{2} f(x) x^2.$$

(A)

Consequently, to determine the heat conduction coefficient it was sufficient and to plot the dependence  $T$  upon  $x^2$  by the tangent of the angle of inclination of the straight line to determine  $f(x)$ , and then compute the magnitude  $\lambda$ . As is evident from fig. 2, the experimental points are well disposed on the straight line, which confirms the square dependence of temperature upon the coordinates. Such a method of determining temperature differential  $\Delta T$  raises to a large extent the measuring accuracy. The error of measuring  $\lambda$  does not exceed 6%.

In the role of investigated materials was selected spectrally pure graphite and tungsten wire with diameter of 1 to 2.2 mm. The species after preparation were precalcined in high vacuum at temperature of 1700°C for a period of 1 hr.

### Measurement Results.

The temperature dependence of the coefficient of heat conduction and specific electric resistance of tungsten, is presented in fig.3. As is evident from this drawing, heat conduction decreases with rise in temperature, which is in conformity with Osborn 2 results.

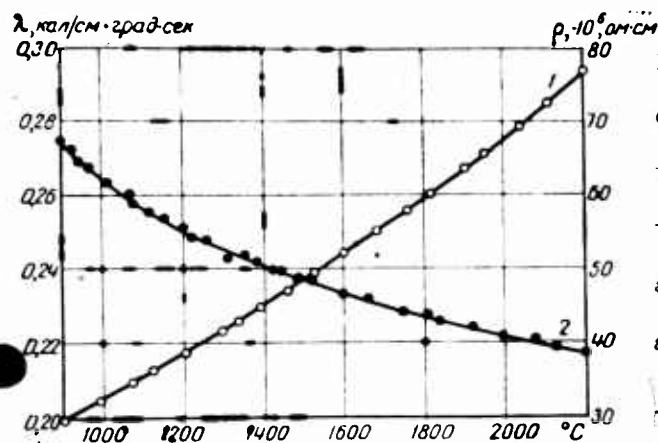


Fig.3. Temperature dependence of heat conduction lambda (curve 2) and specific electric resistance rho (curve 1) of tungsten.

But in our case the heat conduction/temperature dependence is not subject to linear law. According to the absolute value the coefficient of heat conduction is close to heat values, obtained by Worting, Swicker and Forsythe 1 and Osborn 2 and is in no agreement with data listed in literature 3,4, which in our opinion are erroneous. The specific electric resistance (curve 1

fig.3) with the rise in temperature increases from 29.8 (900) to 77.3 microhms. cm (2200).

From the obtained data on heat and electro-conduction of tungsten were calculated the values of the Wiedeman-Frantz ratio for various temperatures over the entire investigated region. The Lorentz number exceeds the theoretical value and depends slightly upon temperature (see table 2).

Table 2.

$T, ^\circ\text{C}$	$L \cdot 10^8, \frac{\text{W}}{\text{BT} \cdot \text{OM}} \cdot \frac{\text{град}}{^\circ\text{C}}$	$T, ^\circ\text{C}$	$L \cdot 10^8, \frac{\text{W}}{\text{BT} \cdot \text{OM}} \cdot \frac{\text{град}}{^\circ\text{C}}$
900	2.91	1600	2.72
1000	2.83	1700	2.71
1100	2.79	1800	2.72
1200	2.74	1900	2.72
1300	2.73	2000	2.73
1400	2.72	2100	2.74
1500	2.72	2200	2.77

(see page 6a for Figure 4)

The temperature dependence of the heat conduction coefficient for graphite is shown in fig.4. By the order of magnitude our data are in good ~~approx~~ agreement with the literature data 3. A more accurate comparison has no sense because the properties of graphite depend to a large degree upon the method of its derivation etc. The specific electric resistance of graphite rise with the rise in temperature and in the zone of high temperatures (above 1500°C) it changes in accordance with the law close to linear.

The obtained experimental results on the thermal progress of heat conduction coefficients of tungsten and graphite are well described by curves

$$\lambda = a - bT - cT^2$$

When the heat conduction coefficient of tungsten is determined by the mathematical method in the range of temperatures of from 900 - 2200°C it is possible with a sufficient degree of accuracy to use the dependence

$$\lambda = 0.361 - 1.17 \cdot 10^{-4} T - 2.32 \cdot 10^{-8} T^2$$

To calculate heat conduction for graphite at temperatures of 900 - 2000°C one can recommend the following formula

$$\lambda = 0.12 - 0.547 \cdot 10^{-4} T - 1.42 \cdot 10^{-8} T^2$$

For the purpose of comparison table 3 contains values of heat conduction coefficient for tungsten and graphite at various temperatures, obtained experimentally and calculated by above mentioned formulas.

Table 3				
Temper. °C	Heat conduction (cal/cm.degree.sec)			
	Tungsten		Graphite	
	Exper.	Calcul.	Exper.	Calcul.

(see page 6a for remainder of Table)

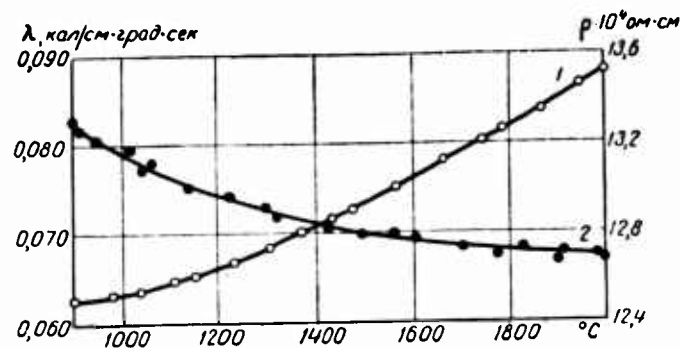


Figure 4. Temperature Dependence of Heat Conduction  $\lambda$  (Curve 2) and Spec. Electric Resistance  $\rho$  (Curve 1) of Graphite.

Table 3 cont'd

900	0.275	0.274	0.0825	0.0824
1000	0.265	0.267	0.0795	0.0796
1100	0.256	0.260	0.0765	0.0771
1200	0.251	0.254	0.0745	0.0749
1300	0.245	0.249	0.0728	0.0730
1400	0.242	0.242	0.0714	0.0714
1500	0.238	0.238	0.0705	0.0700
1600	0.234	0.233	0.0693	0.0689
1700	0.230	0.228	0.0685	0.0682
1800	0.228	0.226	0.0680	0.0678
1900	0.225	0.222	0.0677	0.0676
2000	0.222	0.219	0.0675	0.0675
2100	0.218	0.217	-	-
2200	0.216	0.215	-	-

### Conclusions

1. The described installation allows to determine in an independent way, in one and the very same conditions with sufficient degree of accuracy the heat and elcyro-conduction of metals and alloys in a wide range of temperatyres.

2. The heat conduction coefficients of tungsten and graphite decrease with the rise in temperature, and their progression is well described by curves of the second magnitude over the entire investigated range.

3. The Lorentz number for tungsten in the range of temperatures of 900-2200° C are above the theoretical value and depends loosely upon temperature.

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Submitted, July 22, 1960

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